

Applicant: Showalter
Serial No.: 10/810,114
Filed: 03/25/2004
Title: ANCHOR ATTACHMENT AND SETSCREW FOR A ROOF PANEL RIB
Examiner: Bartosik, Anthony N
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REMARKS

The examiner has cited U.S. Pat. Application No. 2002/0088196 AQ) (“Haddock ‘196”) in view of U.S. Pat. Application No. 6,145,033 (“Haddock ‘033”) as anticipating claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the rib bar is unattached generally and unattached specifically to the roof or roof rib, as shown in Applicant’s FIG. 1 and FIG. 4. Further, applicant traverses the examiner’s finding that combination of Haddock ‘033 with Haddock ‘196 would have been obvious. Applicant points out that Haddock ‘033 does not employ a set screw engaging the neck of a rib bar. Nor does Haddock ‘196 employ a rib bar to prevent deformation of the roof rib. To the contrary, Haddock ‘196 teaches deformation of the roof rib by the set screw into a cavity in the anchor opposite the set screw. It would therefore be counter to the teaching of Haddock ‘196 to employ a rib bar to prevent deformation of the rib and that therefore would defeat the teaching Haddock ‘196, which requires deformation of the rib. Clearly, the operation taught by Haddock ‘196 requires that there be no rib bar so the set screw of Haddock ‘196 could deform the rib into the cavity. It follows that the teaching of Haddock ‘196 is inconsistent with introduction of a rib bar either of Haddock ‘033 or of Applicant. Thus, the combination of Haddock ‘196 with Haddock ‘033 is not at all obvious and is in fact internally contradictory.

Applicant traverses the examiner’s conclusions regarding claims 2 and 3 under Haddock ‘196. Regarding claim 2, Applicant’s claim 2 requires screw threads that terminate intermediate the set screw leaving an unthreaded rod portion between the threads and the screw head. Haddock ‘196 does not teach such an unthreaded rod portion. The only unthreaded portion of the Haddock ‘196 is the head itself, which inherently cannot comprise a rod portion; the rounded head is not a rod. Perchance the examiner is considering the rounded head to be an unthreaded rod portion, claim 2 has been amended to describe the rod as cylindrical, as shown in the figures. Regarding claim 3, the screw of Haddock ‘196 does not blend smoothly into an unthreaded rod portion.

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As noted, Haddock '196 does not have an unthreaded rod portion. Rather the threads of Haddock '196 extend radially beyond the rounded head of Haddock '196, counter to the requirement that the rounded head blend smoothly and continuously "without an edge or protrusion or other disruption" into the unthreaded rod portion.

Applicant believes the claims as amended are in allowable form. Dependent claims should be considered in view of the independent and intervening claims from which they depend. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the above claims and to issue a patent including these claims.

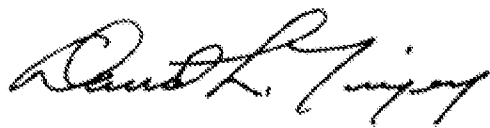
An additional fee is due for an extension of time.

The examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss any remaining matters after consideration of the above amendments and to suggest any further amendments that would put any claim into allowable form still deemed not allowable after these amendments.

Dated: October 1, 2007.

For Applicant, Showalter

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David L. Tingey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Tingey" clearly distinguishable.

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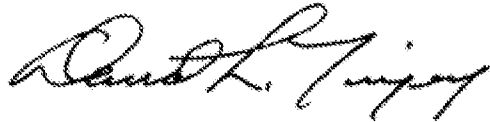
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CERTIFICATE OF FILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed electronically this above date.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David L. Tingey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Tingey" clearly distinguishable.

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